

REMARKS

Claims 21-32 and 34-54 were pending in this application.

Claims 26-32 have been withdrawn as being directed to non-elected species of claims.

Claims 36-39 have been allowed.

Claims 40-54 were subject to a restriction.

Claims 21, 34, and 35 have been rejected.

Claims 22-25 have been objected to.

Claims 21, 23-25, 40, 43, and 45 have been amended as shown above.

Claims 22, 26-32, 41, 42, and 47-54 have been cancelled.

Claims 21, 23-25, 34-40, and 43-46 remain pending in this application.

Reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 36-39 are allowable. These claims have not been amended and therefore remain in condition for allowance.

The Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 22-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate the elements of their base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended Claim 21 to incorporate the elements previously recited in Claim 22, and the Applicant has amended Claim 23 to depend from Claim 21. The Applicant has also amended Claims 24 and 25 to stand in independent form. As a result, Claims 21 and 23-25 (and their dependent claims) are in condition for allowance.

II. RESTRICTION

The Applicant has amended Claims 40, 43, and 45 in view of allowable Claims 21, 24, and 25. The Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction of Claims 40 and 43-46 be withdrawn and that Claims 40 and 43-46 be allowed.

III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejects Claims 21, 34, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,152,202 to DeLigt (“*DeLigt*”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the Applicant has amended Claim 21 to incorporate the elements previously recited in Claim 22 (which was indicated as being allowable). As a result, Claim 21 and its dependent claims are patentable over *DeLigt*.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 103 rejection and full allowance of Claims 21, 34, and 35.

SUMMARY

The Applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests full allowance of the claims.

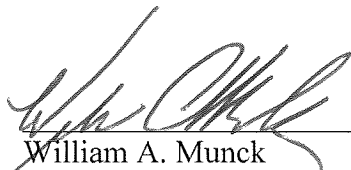
If any issues arise or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *wmunck@munckcarter.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$660.00 for three additional independent claims, and other any fees connected with this communication (including any extension of time fees) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

MUNCK CARTER, P.C.

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